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UNCLAS ABU DHABI 04768

SIPDIS
CXABU:

ACTION: AMB
INFO: POL DCM DOJ LEGAT ECON

DISSEMINATION: AMB
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APPROVED: AMB: MSISON
DRAFTED: ECON: BDEMONTLUZIN
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FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2470
INFO RUEHZM/GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE
RUEHDE/AMCONSUL DUBAI 5585

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SIPDIS

NEA/ARPI; PLS PASS TO DOJ, OPDAT

E.O. 129589: N/A
TAGS: [TFIN](#) [PREL](#) [TC](#)
SUBJECT: USG AND UAEG HOST "ADVANCED FINANCIAL CRIMES"
CONFERENCE, NOVEMBER 19-21, IN ABU DHABI

¶1. (U) The Office of Overseas Prosecutorial Development, Assistance and Training of the United States Department of Justice (OPDAT), the Central Bank of the UAE and the Middle East and North African Financial Action Task Force (MENA/FATF) held a conference in Abu Dhabi, UAE from November 19-21. All GCC countries were represented at the conference. An audience of 250 attended the three-day meeting, participants representing a wide cross-section of government agencies including the Ministries of Justice, Public Prosecutor's Offices, Ministries of State Security, Ministries of Finance, Ministries of Interior, Central Bank authorities, Ministries of Economy, customs, representatives from financial crimes investigative units as well as private banks.

¶2. (U) The Ambassador, the Deputy Governor of the UAE Central Bank and a representative of the General Secretariat of the GCC all gave opening remarks at the conference. Ambassador Sison commended the strong international cooperation in fighting money laundering and the financing of terrorism and stressed the need for continued engagement among nations in order to prevent further criminal activity. The Central Bank Governor concluded the conference by stating that, in order to combat financial crimes, each country should have a legal framework, financial and regulatory supervision, a financial intelligence unit, highly capable law enforcement authorities, judicial means to prosecute criminals, coordination among the various stakeholders in each country as well as international cooperation.

¶3. (U) The conference provided an opportunity for the countries to share their understanding of how criminals, including terrorists and terrorist organizations, abuse financial systems and served to enhance participants'

capacity to investigate, prosecute and adjudicate cases of advanced financial crime. The delegations discussed the legal frameworks for detecting, investigating and prosecuting financial crimes and shared experiences and lessons learned. Participants also re-emphasized the need for transparency and traceability of financial transactions, especially during the investigative stages of a case.

14. (U) Detailed report to follow.

SISON